

PRESCOT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's
Annual Report

For 1920.



Medical Officer of Health :
S. M. GREEN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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Annual Medical Report

1920.

PRESCOT URBAN DISTRICT

Area in Acres 409.

Population, 1911 Census, 8,154.

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Per 1,000 of Population.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Epidemic Death Rate	Phthisis Death Rate	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births
1920	28·6	14·7	1·12	0·56	113
1919	20·6	15·4	0·81	1·04	97
Mean of 10 years 1910-1919	26·6	16·2	2·12	1·15	112
Increase or Decrease in 1920 on					
Previous year	+ 8·0	— 0·7	+ 0·31	— 0·48	+ 16
10 years' average	+ 2·0	— 1·5	— 1·00	— 0·59	+ 1

The Births comprise 128 males and 128 females. Total 256, including 5 illegitimate births (4 males and 1 female).

The total number of Deaths is 132, comprising 76 males and 56 females. 34 of these deaths were Prescott residents, who died in Institutions outside the town, chiefly at Whiston Union and Rainhill Asylum. 54 of these deaths were of 60 years and upwards.

The chief causes of death were Bronchitis, 18 ; Phthisis, 8 ; Pneumonia, 13 ; Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth, 10 ; Diarrhœa, 8.

The Epidemic Death Rate is 1·12 per 1000.

The total number of deaths under 12 months is 29, as compared with 19 last year.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1920

Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
	Uncor-rected Number	Nett		Number	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Resi-dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all ages
		Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	
8925	256	256	28.6	98	10.99	Nil	34	29	113.2	132 14.7

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 409 acres.

Estimated population at all ages, 8,925. Number of inhabited houses, 1730.

Average number of persons per house, 5.15.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The diseases specially prevalent during the year were Diphtheria, Measles and Influenza.

Infectious Diseases notified during the Year.

	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Puerperal Fever	Tuberculosis		Total
						Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Cases ...	10	1	20	—	1	19	4	55
No. removed to Hospitals	7	—	12	—	—	—	—	19
No. of Deaths in Hospitals	Nil	—	Nil	—	—	—	—	Nil

The following cases were removed to :—

Whiston Sanatorium.

Scarlet Fever 12 cases. No deaths.

Diphtheria 7 " " "

19 cases. No deaths.

TABLE (C)

Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1920 to Lancashire County Council.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation?—

For Smallpox, 15. For other Infectious Diseases, 35.

Is it Joint or otherwise? Joint.—A retaining fee of £40 per annum is paid and £1 per week for each bed used.

No. of Beds available for your District?—For Small-pox as many of 15 as are unoccupied. For other Infectious Diseases as many of 35 as are unoccupied.

Disinfection.—No. of houses disinfected?—46. Method?—Formalin or sulphur and rooms sprayed.

Are houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis?—Yes. (b) Measles? No.

*Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise)?—Washington-Lyon's Steam Disinfector.

No. of Articles disinfected?—No record kept.

Where is apparatus situated?—At Whiston Sanatorium.

*If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, &c., of Patients *not* removed to the Hospital?—Yes, if considered necessary.

If not, please state how disinfection of Clothing, &c., in these cases is carried out?—If not, clothing is fumigated in room when house is being disinfected; any washable goods being boiled with a solution of disinfectant.

What Diseases have been specially prevalent?—None.

No. of times School Closure adopted?—None.

Any other Diseases (specify same)?—None.

No. of Special Reports made under Art. XIX. (15 and 16) Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910?—None.

Bacteriological Examinations. No. of specimens examined?—Blood, 8; Sputum, 20.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Order, 1910. Is a supply of Anti-toxin kept *within* the district?—Yes. If so, where?—At the Chemists.

The Housing Acts, 1890 to 1919.

Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article I. of the Regulations of 2nd Sept., 1910?—Yes.

Has your Authority prepared, as required by Art. 1. (3) a list of dwelling-houses, the “early inspection of which is, in the opinion of the M.O.H. desirable?—Yes.

Has your Authority designated an officer to undertake the special inspection of houses and to keep the records stipulated by Articles (II.) and (III.)?—Yes.

What officer has been so designated?—Inspector of Nuisances.

Have the necessary books, forms, &c., for keeping the required records been obtained?—Yes.

Action taken in 1920 under the Housing Acts :

(a) No. of dwelling-houses specially inspected during 1920 *under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909, i.e.*, with a view to ascertaining whether any dwelling-houses are unfit for human habitation?—2.

Have the *particulars* of these inspections, as specified in Article II. (1) to (8), and Article III. (1) to (8), of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, been fully recorded?—Yes.

No. of dwelling-houses inspected under (a) which are considered unfit for human habitation?—1.

No. of Representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders?—1.

No. of Closing Orders made?—1.

No. of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders?—1.

No. of Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders?—None.

No. of Dwelling-houses demolished?—None.

General character of defects found to exist?—General dilapidation.

Total No. of Dwelling-houses inspected for purposes of the Housing Acts, other than those inspected under (a) above. (Not including inspections *re* Nuisances, &c. ?—100 of 175 referred to last year have been reinspected.

If your Authority has a Housing Scheme, state what stage has been reached on December 31st, 1920, giving information under the following headings :—

No. of Schemes submitted	No. of Lay-outs		No. of Houses included in House Plans		No. of Houses	
	Submitted	Approved	Submitted	Approved	On which work has commenced	Completed
Two	Two (also a 3rd site)	Two approved	112	112	70	12 (tenanted)

No. of houses built during 1920 by private enterprise?—None.

Source of Water Supply?—Liverpool Corporation.

What is its condition?—Very good.

Possibilities of contamination?—Nil.

Any insufficiency, and where?—Nil.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year?—4 in. mains laid to "The Wood" Housing site.

Are Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of district?—Yes.

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses?—Sanitary Authority.

If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—Night.

How is the Refuse disposed of?—By tipping at a dépôt, sorting and selling to local farmers.

Has a Destructor been provided?—No.

Sewage Disposal Works. Method of treatment?—Hydrolitic tanks and four filter beds, with revolving sprinklers.

What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year?—Combined system, excepting the extensions during the year to "The Wood" Housing site, which are on the separate system.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system?—Nil.

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.?—All new drains or sewers tested by smoke test, occasionally by water test. Main sewers are regularly flushed.

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams?—Nil.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses?—All in good order. There is one underground, which is subject to special conditions as to cleanliness. No. ? Eight.

What is the condition of Slaughter-houses?—Fair, they are rarely used. No.?—Four. No. registered?—Four. No. Licensed? Four. Has a Public Abattoir been provided?—No.

What is the condition of Lodging-houses?—Fair. No. ? Two. Are they registered?—Yes.

What is the Sanitary condition of the Schools?—Good.

Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected? Yes. What is their condition?—Good, excepting two, where slight improvements are required.

Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B.?—Yes. Are they enforced?—Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow—

(a) Where cows are habitually grazed?—600 cubic feet.

(b) Where cows are *not* habitually grazed?—800 cubic feet.

Cowkeepers.—Total No. of Cowkeepers?—Three. No. on Register?—Three. No. of inspections during year?—Three.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)—Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers? Nine. No. on Register?—Nine.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows?—No.

Action taken (if any) as to tuberculous milk?—None.

Inspection of Food—

Amount condemned or surrendered as unfit for human consumption—

(a) Tuberculous carcasses and parts?—None.

(b) Diseases, unsound, or unwholesome meat (*other than above*) 40 lbs. of meat and 1 case of rabbits surrendered.

(c) Other foodstuffs?—By Police 34 samples taken. No proceedings taken.

No. of Legal proceedings and result?—None.

Notices served—Nuisances.

No. of Notices served?—Informal 93; Statutory, nil. No. of Nuisances abated?—82.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result?—Nil.

Closets and Ashpits—

Privy Middens—No. of Middens?—503. No. of Closets attached to these Middens?—808.

No. of Pail Closets?—14. No. of Dry Ashpits (*excluding Middens*)?—234.

No. of Fresh Water Closets?—1018. No. of Portable Receptacles for refuse?—550.

No. of Privy Closets converted during 1920? To fresh W.C's 7

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—

Council provides fittings and water closets free.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for *new* property?—Water closets.

Smoke—No. of observations?—Nil.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result?—Nil.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—None fixed.

Has the Authority adopted—

“The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890”?—Yes.

“The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890”?—Yes.

“The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907”?—Yes.

Has a Health Visitor been appointed by the Local Council?

State whether whole or part time?—No.

Has any, and if so what, action been taken by the Council respecting Child Welfare Work?—No.

Has any scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants?—No.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District?—Yes.

How many District Nurses employed?—One.

If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work?—No.

If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work?—No.

Does the Association undertake—(a)*Midwifery cases?—No.

(b) Monthly Nursing? No.

(*Attendance at confinement without a Medical Practitioner).

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1920.—None particularly.

Chief Sanitary requirements of District.—Privy conversion, paving of back passages, demolition of Highfield Place area, closing of certain houses, and continuation of the Council's Housing scheme.

(Signed)

S. M. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

4th May, 1921.

Causes of Death in Prescott Urban District

CAUSES OF DEATH.				MALES.	FEMALES.
Civilians only (all causes)				76	56
Whooping Cough					2
Influenza				1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis				2	3
Tuberculous Meningitis				1	
Other Tuberculous Diseases					1
Cancer, malignant disease				4	4
Rheumatic Fever				3	
Meningitis					1
Organic Heart Disease				5	7
Bronchitis				13	5
Pneumonia (all forms)				7	6
Other Respiratory Diseases					1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)				5	3
Cirrhosis of Liver				2	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease				3	
Puerperal Fever					2
Congenital Debility, &c.				5	5
Violence, apart from suicide				4	2
Suicide				2	
Other defined Diseases				18	11
Causes ill-defined or unknown				1	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age... ..				17	12
(includes Illegitimate)				2	
Total Births				128	128
Legitimate				124	127
Illegitimate				4	1
Population (for Births and Deaths)				8925	

SANITATION.

Situation of Town.

The Town is healthily situated on a hill about 200 to 275 feet above ordnance datum, which ensures good drainage to the sewage disposal works on the S.W. of the district, about three-quarters of a mile from the centre of the Town.

The area of Prescott is 409 acres.

Population.

The population last census was 8,154, comprising 4,120 males, 4,034 females. Average number of persons per house, 4·7. The present estimated population is 8,925, and the number of houses inhabited is 1730. Average number of persons per house, 5·15.

Employment.

The chief occupation is cable making, at the works of the British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., which is healthy work, and constant employment is found for upwards of 5,000 people.

During the year 1920 there has been very little unemployment in Prescott.

Out-Door Poor Law Relief.

The amount paid in Out-Relief (money and kind) for year ended December 31st, 1920, was :—

In money	...	...	...	£1073	11	6
In kind	...	...	...	...	67	7 10
				£1140 19 4		

Water Supply.

The water supply is from the Rivington and Vyrnwy supplies of the Liverpool Corporation, and is of excellent character. The main reservoir is situated on the N.E. outskirts of the Town.

Sewage Disposal and Maintenance of Sewers.

The Town is sewered on the combined system, and owing to the elevation of the Town good gradients are obtained and a good sewerage system is in force. The sewage works have now been in use ten years, and include screening and detritus chambers, and hydrolitic tanks. The sewage, after passing through these tanks, is distributed first on to two 80-feet diameter circular filters, and after passing through these is again distributed on to two lower 80-feet diameter sprinklers, having a finer media. The sewage is distributed by means of revolving sprinklers. The new sprinklers fixed last year are working very satisfactorily.

There are at present, exclusive of the British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd. Works and the Printing Works, 808 privies, 14 pail closets, and 1018 water closets, and 153 additional water closets at Hotels, Schools, Clubs and Public Buildings in the Town. The number of conversions during the year is 7. All new houses have water closets and galvanized dustbins instead of ashpits.

Sanitary Inspection.

105 defective drains have been relaid or otherwise made good.

206 dwelling-houses were inspected by Mr. Richard Norris (the Inspector of Nuisances). The chief defects found were badly paved yards, the need of general repairs, and insanitary privies and ashpits.

Every house in the Town is occupied and more cottages are required to house the people and prevent overcrowding. The Council's Housing Scheme in "The Wood" is progressing favourably. Plans for 112 houses have been approved; 70 are in course of erection, 12 are complete and tenanted.

The scheme of the Council for converting all the privies into water closets and the making up of a number of back passages has been re-considered, but owing to the enormous cost, has been left over for further consideration next year.

Lodging Houses.

There are two registered. These have been regularly inspected and are fairly satisfactory.

Schools.

These are in a satisfactory condition. The provision of a new Grammar School, which has been under consideration for the last 13 years, is urgently required. At present the students have to be accommodated in class-rooms in various buildings in the Town. A site has been acquired, largely due to the generosity of Lord Derby, and it is hoped the Education Authority will see their way to make an early start with the building.

Bakehouses.

Eight in number (one is underground) and four confectionery premises. All in good condition with the exception of the underground, which is allowed on compassionate grounds chiefly, and subject to special conditions as to whitewashing and cleanliness, and will be closed at an early date.

Slaughter Houses.

Four in number. These are rarely used, and are satisfactory. Most of the meat is obtained at the Liverpool Abattoirs.

Dairies and Milkshops.

Nine in number, kept clean and satisfactory.

Cowsheds.

Three in number. The amount of air space for cows continually kept in cowsheds is 800 cubic feet per cow.

Food and Drugs Act.

Thirty-four samples were taken by the Police. In addition to the above 40 lbs. of meat were surrendered and one case of rabbits, as being unfit for human consumption.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 46 registered workshops. These are regularly inspected. No particular improvements have been required during the year.

Disinfection.

Forty-six dwelling-houses have been disinfected. Clothing and bedding is disinfected by steam at the Whiston Sanatorium. Premises are usually fumigated either with sulphur or formalin, and the walls sprayed with liquid formalin.

Houses are disinfected after Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Chief Sanitary Requirements.

Conversion of privies to water closets and the making-up of back passages. Also the demolition of Highfield Place area and

a number of houses in various parts of the Town which have been scheduled in the Form of Survey of Housing needs sent to the Ministry of Health, for closing and either demolition or improving. The Form of Survey of Housing Needs also shows that 670 Houses are required to meet the requirements of the District.

Acknowledgment.

The Council wish to place on record their appreciation of the excellent work carried out by Dr. C. W. Laird, Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for this area.

S. M. GREEN,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

